

# *Proclamation*

**WHEREAS**, in the United States, there are 518,000 children and youth in foster care due to the fact that their own families are in crisis and unable to provide for their essential needs; and

**WHEREAS**, nearly every community across the country is urgently seeking additional foster parents to meet the needs of youth of all ages; and

**WHEREAS**, foster homes allow displaced youth to live together with their siblings, remain in their own neighborhoods, and stay in their same schools; and

**WHEREAS**, foster care promotes the healing process by offering a stable and secure environment until the child can either return home or establish an alternative lifelong relationship with a caring adult through adoption; and

**WHEREAS**, foster parenting is a significant and rewarding opportunity that helps shape brighter futures; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2004, 59 percent of foster children were adopted by their foster parents; and

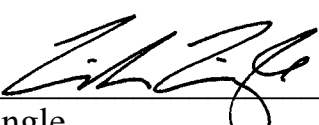
**WHEREAS**, there are a variety of other meaningful ways for individuals, organizations and communities to get involved and make a lasting difference in the lives of young people in foster care,

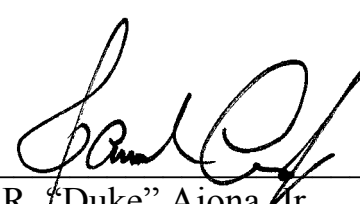
**NOW, THEREFORE, I, LINDA LINGLE**, Governor of the State of Hawai'i, and **I, JAMES R. "DUKE" AIONA, JR.**, Lieutenant Governor, do hereby proclaim May 2006, as

# **FOSTER CARE MONTH**

in Hawai'i, and encourage all citizens to make an endearing change in the lives of our youth by sharing their hearts, opening their homes, and offering to help children in foster care, their foster parents, and the child welfare professional staff who work with them.

**Done** at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this nineteenth day of April 2006.

  
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Linda Lingle  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

  
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James R. "Duke" Aiona Jr.  
Lieutenant Governor, State of Hawai'i